

PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1949

Officials:

Medical Officer of Health	...	W. W. Wilson, M.B., Ch.B.
Sanitary Inspector	...	G. G. Evans, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

PAINSCASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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Mr. Chairman, Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions and state of the public health in the Painscastle Rural District for the year 1949.

In preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 2/50 (Wales).

SECTION I. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Statistical Summary for the year 1949.

Area	...	31,414 acres
Population (Census 1931)	...	2,201
Population (Estimated at Midsummer 1949)	...	1,908
Number of inhabited houses	...	556

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 pop.</u>
Live births.				
Legitimate	17	23	40	22.01
Illegitimate	1	1	2	
Birth rate for England and Wales				16.7
Still births	-	2	2	1.04
Still Birth rate for England and Wales				0.39
Deaths	11	12	23	12.05
Death rate for England and Wales				11.7

Deaths under one year:-

All infants	Nil.	Rate per 1,000 live births	0.
Infant mortality	Nil.	England and Wales	32.0

Deaths from special causes:-

Infectious disease	...	Nil
Tuberculosis of respiratory system		Nil
Other tuberculosis disease		Nil
Cancer	...	3

Area The Rural District of Painscastle, which has an area of 31,414 acres forms part of the County of Radnorshire. The district is situated in the South East part of the County and is of an agricultural nature with farming as the predominant occupation. There are no towns in the district.

<u>Population</u>	Census 1931	...	2,201.
	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
	1,750	1,872	1,908

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. The population has been increasing steadily since 1947.

The number of inhabited houses in the district was 556 giving an average number of 3.43 persons per house.

<u>Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1947 ...	11	11	22	16.0
1948 ...	14	17	31	16.5
1949 ...	18	24	42	22.01
England and Wales 1949	...	...	...	16.7

It will be observed that the birth rate for the year under review was higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Deaths After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents of the district is shown below:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1947 ...	7	6	13	12.0
1948 ...	9	9	18	9.6
1949 ...	11	12	23	12.05
England and Wales 1949	...	...	...	11.7

The death rate for 1949 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1947 ...	0	0	0	0
1948 ...	1	0	1	0.42
1949 ...	0	2	2	1.04
England and Wales 1949	...	...	...	0.39

The still birth rate was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

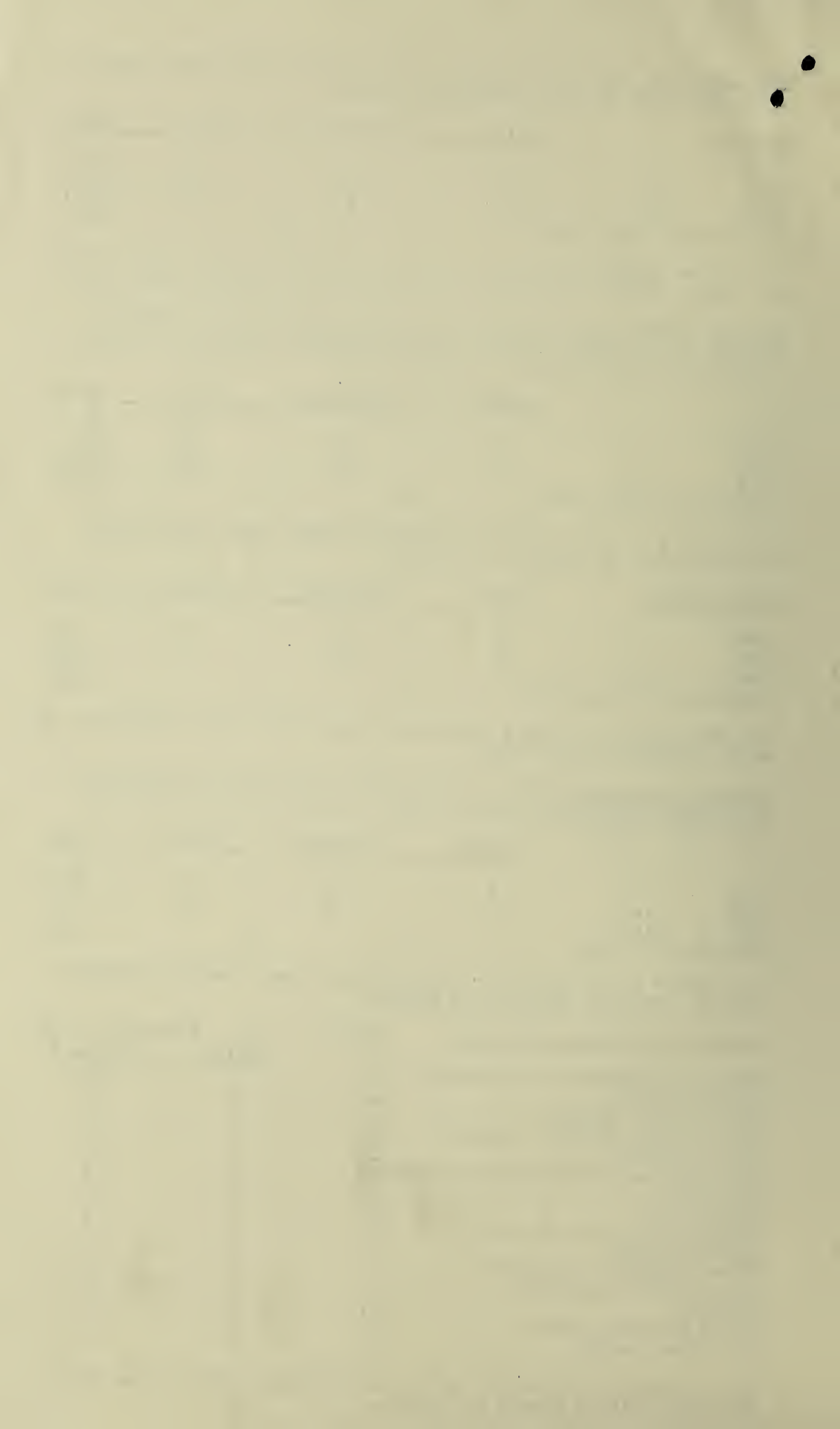
Infantile Mortality This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1,000 live births.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1947 ...	1	0	1	36.0
1948 ...	1	0	1	32.2
1949 ...	0	0	0	0
England and Wales	...	...	...	32.0

The infant mortality rate was therefore lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

<u>Analysis of Causes of Deaths</u>	<u>Males ... 11.</u>	<u>Females ... 12.</u>
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Cancer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	0	1
Cancer Breast ...	0	0
Cancer Other sites ...	0	2
Intracranial Vascular lesions ...	0	1
Heart Disease ...	1	3
Other diseases of Circulatory system ...	0	3
Pneumonia ...	0	0
Bronchitis ...	0	0
Other respiratory diseases ...	1	0
Appendicitis ...	0	1
Other digestive diseases ...	1	0
Road Traffic Accidents ...	1	0
Suicide ...	1	0
Other violent causes ...	2	0
All other causes ...	4	1

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the new Abridged List of Causes of deaths.



Illegitimacy The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to residents in the district during 1949 amounted to two.

Maternal Mortality There were no deaths during the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers There was no change in the public health officers during the year, Mr.C.C.Evans remained as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities During the year laboratory facilities were available at Hereford, Abergutwyth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Analyst for the County at Hereford and Brecon, whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease were performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Hereford. All the milk sampling was done by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme laboratory at Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities As a result of the new National Health Service Act 1946, certain changes were operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council were responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's Ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr and Hereford Isolation Hospitals conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing Under the new Health Act, the County Council were responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations were whole time employees of the County Council, and district nursing associations, as such, ceased to function.

Treatment Centres and Clinics Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, and the nearest is at Ilandrindod some 27 miles away. Ante-natal clinics and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye defects are also available.

Hospitals The hospital needs of the residents of the district for all diseases, apart from infectious disease, are provided for by the Hereford Hospital. A few cases are admitted at Brecon and Ilandrindod Wells. For the treatment of cases of smallpox, arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fodw Hir Hospital.

Disinfection In the main the methods used for any required disinfection have been fumigation and spraying. In the main current disinfection is advised.

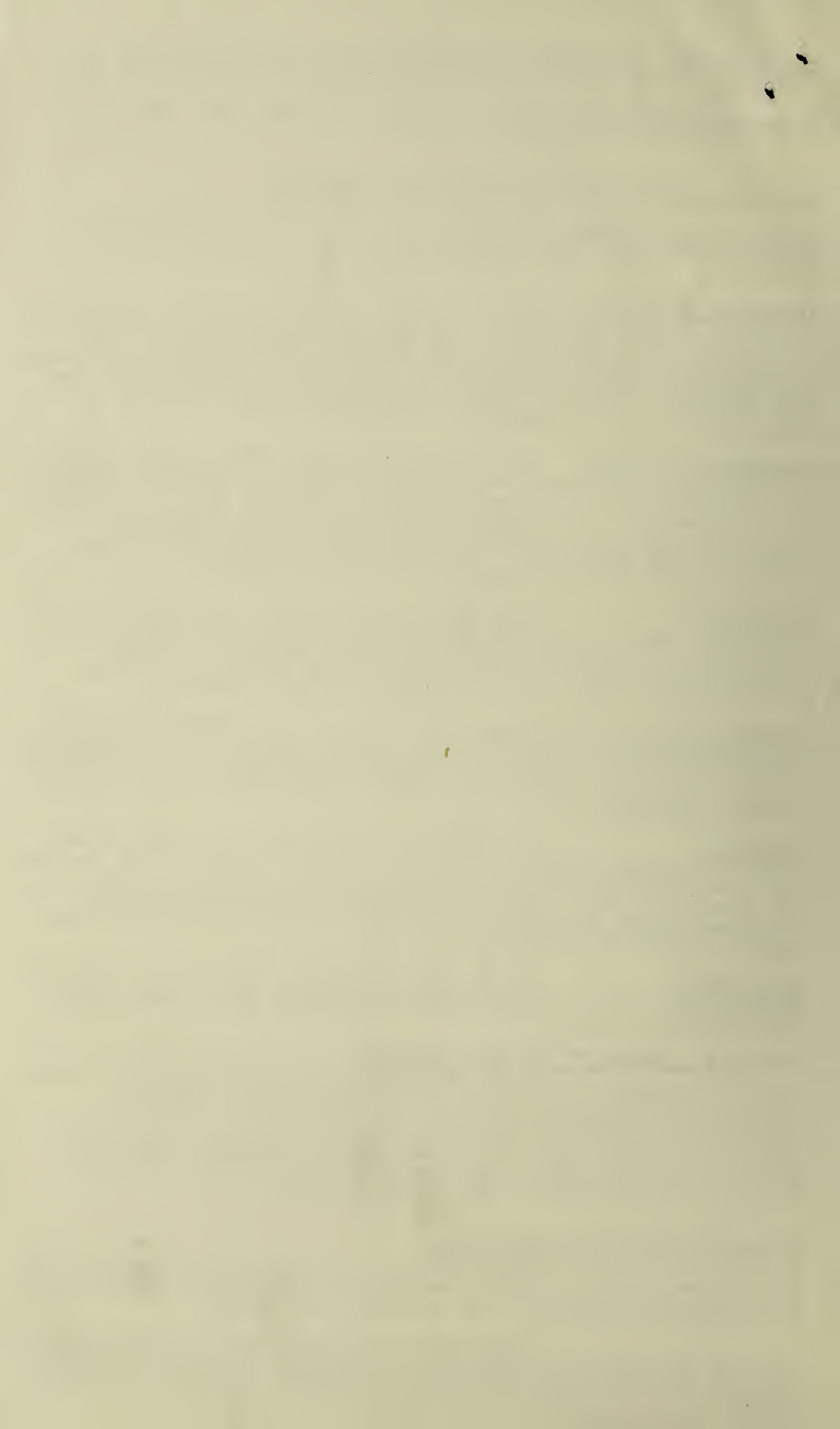
SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, dental, orthopaedic and eye treatment and for expectant mothers. Provision is also made for free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives, child life protection and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector for the reports on water supplies, sewerage and workings of the Factories Act which are included in this section of the report.

Water has been satisfactory in quantity during the year for those dwellings below the Ordnance contour of 500 feet, but most unsatisfactory for the majority of the dwellings above this height.



The scheme previously submitted by a Consulting Engineer has advanced during the year but real progress seems very slow.

WATER REPORT

(a) Boughrood Parish

Eight houses in the vicinity of Boughrood Bridge draw water from the Llyswen water supply. The remaining houses have private supplies. In times of drought the quantity is insufficient and the quality "suspicious". A scheme for improving this supply was put forward during the year and this will make more water available. I sincerely hope the suggested scheme known as The Bostin will mature in the very near future.

(b) Bryngwyn Parish

The Council own one small water supply in this parish and there is sufficient water to extend the main to the hamlet of Rhosgoch. I am glad to report that this extension was completed early in 1949.

In times of drought this parish suffers greatly both from the domestic and agricultural need of water and your Consulting Engineer has submitted a scheme which will satisfy the whole needs of the parish.

(c) Clyro Parish

The parish has one water supply which serves some 37 properties; 19 cottages are served from standpipes and 25 other properties have water laid on.

This supply was laid down some 45 years ago and for many years the maintenance has been carried out by the Clyro Court Estate; the whole scheme has been offered to the Council, and it is hoped that the Welsh Board of Health will sanction the transfer. If this is done much needed improvements can be carried out to improve the quality of the water. The quantity has been found to be sufficient for the needs of clyro village if supervision is regularly maintained in the late summer and autumn months; there is more water going to waste than is being used, and should this water be brought into use it will be sufficient for any development in Clyro for the next twenty years.

The other 100 dwellings in the parish have private supplies ranging from open shallow wells to small piped supplies.

(d) Glasbury Parish

In this parish there are 90 cottages of which some 45 have water laid on from the Council's main. During the year shortage was experienced and on enquiry it was found that several springs were running to waste and in due course the Surveyor's department re-collected same and it was then found that there was sufficient water for domestic use.

The other 45 cottages, together with 21 farm dwellings are served by small shallow wells, pumps or small private supplies. Water from the shallow wells has to be carried from distances varying from 20 to 400 yards and the public elementary school falls in this category, but I am pleased to report that a scheme was commenced during the year to give a supply to the school and school house.

In the case of severe drought the domestic needs suffer much more than the agricultural needs.

(e) Llanbedr-Paincastle Parish

Has one small supply serving three farms and six cottages, and the other properties have small shallow wells and small piped supplies. In times of drought both domestic and agricultural needs are seriously handicapped. The only suitable source which can serve this parish is Llanbwchlllyn Lake.

(f) Llandewi-fach Parish

Has no piped supply and in times of drought the domestic need is greater, since the agricultural need is easily met by the river. This parish can be easily supplied from Llanbwchlllyn Lake. There are 3 cottages and 15 farms in the parish.

(g) Llandilo-Graban Parish

Has three private piped supplies, and one of these serving one farm is so defective it could be easily written off. The remaining properties have small shallow wells and are all subject to gross pollution. This parish can be supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake. There are 17 cottages and 30 other dwellings in the parish.

(h) Llanstephan Parish

This parish has 28 dwellings and 12 are served by a private supply laid on to each house. The remaining dwellings have similar supplies as mentioned in the other parishes. This parish could easily be supplied from Llanbwchllyn Lake.

(i) Llowes Parish

The Council has a small undertaking in this parish and serves the hamlet of Llowes. The mains to the supply do not allow water to reach the proposed new Housing Site and it is proposed to lay a new 2 inch main from the reservoir direct to the site. The remaining properties in the parish are served by shallow wells and open streams and the majority are subject to gross pollution.

Water Sampling

During the year 32 samples from various sources in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination and the results were classified as follows:-

Highly satisfactory	...	0.
Satisfactory	...	11.
Suspicious	...	0.
Unsatisfactory	...	21.

The above results emphasize the great need for the Llanbwchllyn water scheme which is still under consideration.

The above results are classified according to the Ministry of Health Report No.17 (1939) which suggests that non-chlorinated piped supplies should be as follows:-

		Presumptive coliform count per 100 ml. water
Class I	Highly satisfactory	Less than 1
Class II	Satisfactory	1 to 2
Class III	Suspicious	3 to 10
Class IV	Unsatisfactory	Greater than 10

Small rural private supplies from shallow wells should not often show 50 coliform organisms per 100 ml. Persistent failure to obtain this standard should lead to condemnation. Arising from the samples taken at Rhosgoch the Surveyor carried out certain improvements and I am glad to report that the source of pollution was eliminated.

Total number of inspections to water supplies 90

Sewerage and drainage

There are no sewers nor sewage disposal works in the district but instructions have been given to the Consulting Engineer to prepare schemes for the villages of Clyro and Glasbury

Number of visits to inspect new drains being laid 2

Public Cleansing

Refuse collection was continued during the year and services were rendered in the parishes of Llanstephan, Boughrood, Glasbury, Llowes and Clyro with a weekly collection. Monthly collections were given in the parishes of Llandilo-Graban, Llanbedr-Painscastle and Bryngwyn. All refuse is tipped by the Control Method at Clyro.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The sanitary inspection of the area was undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector. The following details give information for the year:-

Nuisances

Number of complaints received	15
Number of complaints investigated	15
Number of premises visited	51
Number of premises re-visited	14
Number of Abatement Notices served	1

There has been considerable difficulty experienced during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. At present repairs are of a patching nature and it is hoped that a greater supply of materials will soon be available to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings

It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature as to require control under Byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades in the district.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the district.

Licensed Premises

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector	5
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Shops

Number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector	4
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Factories

Number of Factories and Workshops in the district	8
Number of inspections made	12

Camping Sites

There are no recognised camping sites in the district for which a licence is necessary.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Any premises found as a result of complaint or inspection to be infested with bed bugs or other vermin would be treated with D.D.T. preparation. One premises was found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

Verminous Premises

Number of premises disinfested	1
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Rodent Control

One full time Rodent Operator is employed who works under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. This Operator is also similarly employed by the Hay Urban District Council and the Hay Rural District Council.

Rodent Control Cont'd

Number of premises inspected during the year	109
Number of premises found infested	19
Number of premises treated by Rodent Operator	9
Estimated number of rats killed during the year	169
Number of dead rats recovered during the year	37

From the above figures it will be noted that the number of rats killed in 1949 are approximately half of the number killed in 1948 and it safe to assume that the Rodent Operator's work, on premises other than farms, is beginning to justify his appointment. No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

SECTION 5. HOUSING.

Number of House to House inspections	33
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Owing to the complete cessation of building operations during the war years the housing shortage was acute. There was no appreciable difference in the housing conditions in the district during the year.

No new houses were erected in the year but a tender for the erection of four new Council Houses for the parish of Glasbury was accepted in December. Much concern must be felt for the lack of builders coming forward to build houses in the rural districts, for this reason no tender was submitted for the proposed houses in the parish of Llowes during the year.

Housing Act 1949

This Act received Royal Assent in July 1949. Under this Act you are the authority for administering the Grants and Loans which are permitted thereunder.

Under Section 1 of the Act, limitations under previous Housing Acts are removed by reference to the "working classes" and this means it is the duty of the Housing Authority to consider the housing conditions and needs of all the inhabitants, and brings all houses under provisions of Part II of the Housing Act 1936, to include all persons, where displaced, under Part III of the Housing Act 1936, to extend, so as to include all persons, the re-housing obligation imposed by Section 137 of, and the Eleventh Schedule of the Housing Act 1936.

It also lays down a standard for the improved dwellings which may be eligible for the Improvement Grant, which must not exceed one half of the approved expense up to a maximum of £600, which may be exceeded where the buildings involved are of architectural or historic interest.

No applications for Grant under this Act were received during the year

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk On 1st. October the Milk & Dairies Act 1944 came into operation. Under this Act the licensing of producers, and the supervision of milk producers became the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries. The Council is now left only with the licensing and control of distributors.

Up to 1st. October sampling, the results of which are shown below, was carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. From 1st. October to end of year no samples were taken.

Number of samples taken	57
Number of samples in Category A	41
Number of samples in Category B	6
Number of samples in Category C	10
Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected	16

Meat There is no slaughterhouse in the district. All meat is supplied from the Ministry of Food's slaughterhouse at Brecon. No meat was condemned in the district as being unfit for human consumption.

Other foods

There was no other food condemned during the year.

Food Preparation Rooms (Including bakehouses)

There are no bakehouses in the district, but 5 visits were made to other premises.

Ice-cream Premises

There is only one property registered for the sale of ice-cream in the district and no premises are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream.

Number of visits to Ice-cream premises 3

Fried Fish Shops

There are no fried fish shops in the districts.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following number of cases of notifiable disease were reported during the year:-

Erysipilas ... 1

Number of premises disinfected ... 1

Veneral Disease

The County Council has an agreement with the County Hospital, Hereford for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis

There was one male case notified during the year. The County Council is responsible for the Allowance Scheme.

Diphtheria Immunisation

This work is carried out by the Radnorshire County Council and no cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. WILSON. M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

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